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TOWN OF WEYMOUTH, MA.  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023  
EMERY ESTATE - 6:30 P.M.

Present: Jim Clarke, Mark Schneider, Steve McCloskey, Cathy Torrey, Kerri Donnelly  
Staff: Eric Schneider

1. Emery Estate building tour. Members gathered at 6:30 P.M. to tour the Emery Estate. The commission walked through all three floors of the building. Cathy Torrey, a member of the former Emery Estate Committee, briefed members on efforts to develop new uses for the building and some of the steps taken to preserve the building and reuse the grounds. Although the exterior requires work, the members thought the interior was in good condition. Members will rely on Jenn, member of the new Emery Committee, to keep us up to date and involved in the reuse evaluation process.
2. Minutes. Jim called the regular meeting to order at 6:55 P.M. A motion was made by Cathy, seconded by Mark, to approve the minutes of 6/27/23. So voted unanimously.
3. Historic house Sign Request. The request was for a historic house sign for 230 Sea Street. Karen and Paul Harrington were the petitioners and were present. Karen had lived in the house and gave a presentation why the sign was warranted. The home was built by Donald Blanchard, a graduate of Weymouth High School and he received a mechanical engineering degree in college. He excavated, designed, and built architectural features in the house. He also found arrowheads and a bronze coin from the 1600's on the grounds. His find was described in "Two Forts to Destiny" by G. Stinson Lord. The house was built in 1949. Jodi Purdi-Quinlan, former commission member, was present to support the application and spoke in favor. Mark Schneider noted the the applicant had made a strong case for the recognition of the house.  
A motion was made by Cathy to approve the sign application, seconded by Mark. So voted unanimously.

4. Demolition Delay. Eric stated that ninety notices had been sent to homes in the Front Street District that explained the process and impact of listing the property on the Demolition Delay list. He stated that he had fielded phone calls and nine had objected to the listing. Jim and Eric felt that based on their review of the ordinance, the commission could remove a building from further consideration prior to holding a public hearing on the request. Eric had removed 17 Broad Street from the list based on a discussion with Jim and the owner.

Mark made a motion, seconded by Steve, to remove 11 Front, 138 Front, 74 Summer, 23 Summer, and 54 Summer from further consideration based on the existing condition of the building, one being a new structure. So voted unanimously.

Mark made a motion, seconded by Steve, to proceed to a hearing for 86 Front, 107 Front, and 34 Broad Street. So voted unanimously.

Eric stated that he would notify the property owners of the action and prepare an ad for the hearing on the three properties.

5. Newsletter. Kerri noted that the September newsletter was sent out today. We had several events to promote, especially the activities of the First Church 400th anniversary and Fogg Library 125th anniversary.

6. Fogg Library. Jim noted that the lecture on the history of the building and renovation of the Fogg Library would be on September 11 and on September 16 there would be a lecture at Old South Church on the restoration of two stained glass windows and an open house at the library after the lecture.

7. First Church. Jim reported that the fair would be on September 16 and the visit with Abigail Adams lunch would be on September 30. The final event would be a concert in the church on October 21. Jim and Cathy were working on the bus tours for the event. Jim expressed his disappointment in the lengthy time it has taken to get the street banners approved. We are still waiting and the church's 400th year celebration is almost over.

8. Development Update. Eric stated that the arch for 88 Pleasant Street is still on schedule, the exact location needs to be determined. Eric noted that the Honda building on Main Street has been demolished but no plans are set. He noted that the plans for the Jackson Square development would be before the Conservation Commission and the BZA soon. As part of that process, the commission would need to hold a demolition delay hearing on the Rice Tavern structure, which is on the list. Eric also noted that the Western Auto development plans had been under review for about a year.

9. Emery Estate. Jim suggested that the commission hold on any discussion since they just walked through the building and Jenn was not present.

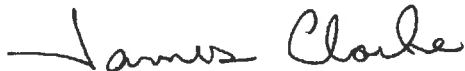
10. CPC Report. Cathy stated that no new meetings had been held. Jim noted that the restoration of the 1853 map was approved and underway.

11. Town Vault. The report from the Mass Archives has been received and reviewed. Kerri and Jim met with the Town Clerk to discuss how to start the process. There is limited time for staff to devote to this but it was agreed that the first step would be to remove material that does not belong in the vault area.

12. Other Business. Jim expressed his disappointment with the review and work on the Beals Park storyboards by the commission. He knew commission members spent time reviewing and editing the narrative and few of our suggestions were used in the final version. Due to the quality of the work he requested that the commission's name be removed from the storyboards.

13. Next Meeting. October 10, 2023.

14. Adjournment. Mark made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 P.M., seconded by Cathy. So voted unanimously.



James Clarke, Chair  
Weymouth Historical Commission

12/14/23

Date